

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A chain tensioner has a spring-biased plunger with rack teeth engageable with teeth of wedge-shaped cam chips cooperating with a spring-biased cam-receiving ring in a recess formed in a tensioner housing. A seal plate, having a central hole through which the plunger extends, is provided as a closure for the recess to hold the cam chip assembly in place. A wire loop, for temporarily engaging a pin protruding laterally from the plunger, is pivoted in tube formed by rolling a portion of a seal plate. The wire loop holds the plunger in its retracted state while the tensioner is being installed, and automatically disengages the laterally protruding pin when the plunger is pushed inward by a tensioner lever, thereby releasing the plunger for normal operation.